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THE ADVANCE OF GEN. HOOKER.

The Baltimore American of this morning says:—We have nothing by telegraph or in any official form in relation to the operations of the Army of the Potomac during Saturday and Sunday, though it is generally believed that on both these days a heavy battle was in progress. The Washington Republican of last evening publishes accounts, with, as it intimates, the consent of the Commander-in-Chief, which it professes to have from a "reliable gentleman" who was an eye witness of the operations described. According to these accounts, after three days' fighting, the Army of the Potomac has gained the most important advantages. Whilst General Hooker has successfully attacked the Confederates in the rear, General Sedgwick in the front has carried the heights of Fredericksburg at the point of the bayonet, inflicting great slaughter on the enemy, capturing guns, stores, ammunition, and over two thousand prisoners. General Stoneman is reported also to have destroyed the railroad in the rear of the Confederates, thus cutting off their communication with Richmond. The Washington Star, also makes the same reports, and states that sixteen hundred Confederate prisoners captured on the Rappahannock arrived at Washington yesterday.

Of the movements of the Army of the Potomac up to Saturday morning we have from different sources very full details. Below Fredericksburg, on Thursday afternoon, an artillery duel of considerable magnitude occurred at about the point where the operations under Gen. Franklin were carried on during Gen. Burnside's unsuccessful demonstrations against the enemy's lines in December. Although the firing was very rapid and continuous, the casualties were very few on the Federal side.—The Confederates, during this cannonade, were drawn up in line of battle, apparently awaiting an attack. On Friday morning it was discovered that they had changed their position—a movement rendered necessary by the operations of that portion of the army under the immediate command of Gen. Hooker, on their left and rear. Near Chancellorsville, the point at which this portion of the Federal army was at work, there was some severe fighting on Friday afternoon, caused by efforts on the part of the Confederates to dislodge the Federal forces—in which they failed. The strength of the Confederates in that quarter was thus ascertained with considerable certainty, and preparations were made during Friday night for a struggle of greater magnitude, which was expected to take place on Saturday.

The Baltimore Sun says:—On Sunday morning the reserve corps at Falmouth crossed the river to Fredericksburg and attacked and carried the Confederate batteries in the rear of the town, the troops left to defend the works retiring towards the main body of the Confederate army. Yesterday they made an effort to regain the position, but without success.—There is no estimate of the losses given, but it is said the carnage was terrible on both sides. Among the killed on the Federal side was General Berry, of Maine. Gen. Howard was wounded. Some two thousand Confederates were taken prisoners. Gen. Stoneman's cavalry are reported to have penetrated the country in the rear of the Confederates and destroyed the railroad and telegraphic communication with Richmond.

The Washington Chronicle, of this morning, has the following:—"The situation of the army

of the Potomac is almost as mysterious as it was yesterday morning. Nothing reliable has come to hand either from public or private sources. It would be easy to fill the Chronicle with the hundreds of rumors that are flooding the streets, but they would only inflame instead of allaying the popular excitement.—The accounts we publish elsewhere are sufficient to prove entire success in capturing the formidable works in the rear of Fredericksburg. It is rumored that the Confederates yesterday made or were preparing for an attack on the Federal forces within the works, but it is quite clear to every one, independently of the high authority we have for the opinion, that even if they have been successful it will amount to nothing at all. The main fighting has been transferred to some other point; and in the operations which are now progressing, as we hope, to a successful completion the occupation of Fredericksburg is not of the slightest consequence. If the Confederates have attacked us there, it is probably a mere feint, and will only amount to a useless expenditure of life and ammunition.

"General Hooker's headquarters are supposed to be at Chancellorsville, a point south and a little west from Fredericksburg, and about ten miles distant. All the crossings both of Rappahannock and of the Rapidan have been effected by the Federal forces with entire success, and there was probably some heavy fighting at Chancellorsville the day before yesterday. None of the details have reached us, and we know nothing except that we were successful in gaining all the points we wished to make. It is not probable that there was any fighting at all points yesterday.

Of General Stoneman nothing at all is known.

Gen. Berry is killed. His body arrived in this city yesterday. The reports of the deaths of other generals are without foundation.

The rumor that Gen. Longstreet, of the Confederate army, has reinforced General Lee, has no reliable foundation. Prisoners were arriving here all day yesterday.

We must again remind our readers that scarcely anything is really known of the details of the fighting that has taken place, and that the result is not only not known, but has not been reached. While a thousand stories circulate from mouth to mouth, and hundreds of wiseacres are discussing the strategy of Gen. Hooker, no one really knows what has been done. Gen. Hooker has the Confederate army between him and the sea. Hard fighting must do the rest. The work is not to be finished in a day. Several battles must probably take place before we know the result."

A man named Foster, in Illinois, was recently awarded a prize for an agricultural essay.—Subsequently it was discovered that the essay had been plagiarized from one written by W. W. Bowie, esq., of Maryland.

Cliffburn barracks are being cleared off with a view of confining a portion of the Confederate prisoners being received in Washington.

It is estimated by competent judges that the total amount of improvements in Chicago and suburbs, this season, will cost little less than two millions of dollars.

Prices of Dry Goods have declined, a little, recently in New York.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 148.

Col. McVickar of the N. Y. 6th Cavalry, was killed in battle on Friday, near Chancellorsville.

LOCAL.—A heavy fog again prevailed early this morning.—The weather is Spring like.—Last night, there was a slight shower, with some little lightning and thunder.

One of the most useful works of improvement carried on in this place, for years past, has been commenced under the direction of the U. S. authorities, in the draining of the Marsh, near Jones' Point. This will benefit not only that section, but the whole city.

There have not been any large supplies of fish received in this place, from the Potomac fisheries, for several days. Shad, very fine and large, are retailing in the market at from 25@30 cts. per pair; and Herring at from 8 to 10 cts. per dozen. One or two of the few fisheries on the Virginia side of the Potomac, have ceased operations.

Bishop Otey, of Tennessee, died at Memphis, Tenn. on the 23d ult., aged 64 years.

The Washington Chronicle says that the report of the capture of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, and his being brought to Washington, bandied about the hotels, is entirely incorrect.

A letter in the N. Y. Tribune, dated four miles below Fredericksburg, May 1, says:—"Capt. Fitzhugh, who resided in an elegant mansion on this side of the river, was killed day before yesterday, and his remains sent over. He was in the rifle pits when the Federal forces charged up the opposite bank of the river."

Ex-Senators Willey and Carlile, from Western Virginia, are now in Washington.

The boats are arriving by canal at Georgetown freely, many with cargoes of coal from Cumberland, showing the navigation to be fully resumed. Over 3,200 tons of coal arrived yesterday, and some 66 boats.

The U. S. Court of Claims is now holding a session in Washington, which will be devoted to the digest of rules of practice applicable to the functions of the Court on its new footing.

There was a considerable disturbance in Washington, on Sunday afternoon, in consequence of an affray between some white citizens assisted by some soldiers, and a number of negroes. The police quelled the tumult and made arrests of several concerned.

Eugene Sue, at the time of his death, was engaged in the publication of a gigantic romance. He had got as far as the nineteenth volume, when the composition was interrupted by the stroke of fate, and his work remains only as a fragment. It has now been translated into English and greatly condensed. Its name, "Les Mysteres du Peuple," has been changed to "The Rival Races."

ERRATUM.—The paragraph in yesterday's Gazette in relation to Mr. J. S. Gallaher, should have read that he will give the *Administration*, "a fair and honest, but not an unreasoning support."